

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

Honorable David Price, Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation and
and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing
Housing and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
404 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I am requesting funding for the Safe Routes to Transit in GA-05 in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, located at 2424 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30324. The project will be occurring at 161 bus stops in GA-05.

Safe pedestrian access is crucial to riding transit. Nearly every passenger trip begins or ends with a journey in the roadside to one of MARTA's 9,000 bus stops - so problems like missing sidewalks or unsafe crossings create real barriers to mobility for metro Atlantans. Recognizing the critical importance of this infrastructure MARTA will leverage CPF to address the 20% of high ridership stops that lack pedestrian infrastructure as it deploys 1000 new bus shelters and amenities over a five-year period.

MARTA's project will remove barriers and provide safe access to bus stops through a variety of pedestrian and ADA improvements. These will include a mix of high-visibility crosswalks, signage curb extensions, medians and refuge islands, rectangular rapid-flash and pedestrian hybrid beacons, and installation of sidewalks, curb ramps, and other accessibility features. The project will include a needs assessment to identify locations for improvement, will design site-specific pedestrian and safety infrastructure, and carry out construction. Through this project, MARTA will create safe routes to transit that are equipped with sidewalks, safe crossings, and ADA accessibility features.

This project is a good use of taxpayer dollars because it will have benefits across the entirety of MARTA's bus system, which currently carries 196,909 average daily weekday passenger trips. The system serves a three-county service area with over 2.1 million residents, 70% of whom are minorities, 24% of whom are low-income, and 10% of whom do not have access to a car. 152, or over 40%, of census tracts served by the system are historically disadvantaged. The project will serve historically disadvantaged, minority, and low-income communities, which will be prioritized in the site selection process.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikema Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress